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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, DECEMBER 30, 1999

APPLICATION OF

WEST ROCKINGHAM WATER COMPANY, INC.

CASE NO. PUE990882

For a general increase in rates

PRELIMINARY ORDER

On November 10, 1999, West Rockingham Water Company, Inc. ("West Rockingham" or "the Company"), served its customers with a Notice of Increases in Rates, Charges, Rules and Regulations of Service of West Rockingham Water Co., Inc. ("Notice"). In the Notice, the Company stated that it would change its tariffs effective for service rendered on and after January 1, 2000.

As of December 21, 1999, the Commission's Division of Energy Regulation received complaints from twenty-nine (29) customers requesting a hearing in this matter. West Rockingham currently serves sixty-one (61) customers.

NOW, UPON CONSIDERATION of the foregoing, we are of the opinion and find that at least twenty-five (25) percent of all customers affected by West Rockingham's proposed rate change have requested a hearing in this matter. Therefore, in accordance with § 56-265.13:6 of the Code of Virginia, we will order a hearing to be held to consider the Company's proposed

rate increase. By subsequent order, we will set a hearing date and procedural schedule for this case. We will suspend the Company's rates, tolls, and charges for sixty (60) days starting January 1, 2000. Thereafter, the Company's proposed rates shall be interim and subject to refund with interest until such time as the Commission has made its final determination in this proceeding. Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) A hearing shall be held for the consideration of West Rockingham Water Company, Inc.'s proposed rate increase.

(2) The Company's proposed rates hereby are suspended for sixty (60) days starting January 1, 2000, and thereafter are subject to refund with interest until such time as the Commission has made its final determination in this proceeding.